

## Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing accelerated data storage, said method steps comprising:

receiving a digital data stream at an input data transmission rate which is greater than a data storage rate of a target storage device;

compressing the digital data stream at a compression rate that increases the effective data storage rate of the target storage device; and

storing the compressed digital data stream in the target storage device,

wherein the instructions for performing the step of compressing comprise instructions for performing the steps of:

reading a first parameter that is indicative of a compression type to be applied to the input digital data stream; and

selecting at least one allowable encoder based on the first parameter.

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(Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, wherein the compression type is one of lossless data compression, lossy data compression, and a combination thereof.

(Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, wherein the input digital data stream comprises a plurality of data blocks and wherein each data block has a first parameter associated therewith indicative of a compression type to be applied to the data block.

(Amended) The program storage device of claim 1, further comprising instructions for performing the step of reading a second data parameter that is indicative of an amount of information loss that is permissible, if lossy data compression is selected.

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(Amended) A method for providing accelerated data storage, comprising the steps of: receiving a digital data stream at an input data transmission rate which is greater than a data storage rate of a target storage device;

compressing the digital data stream at a compression rate that increases the effective data storage rate of the target storage device; and

storing the compressed digital data stream in the target storage device,

wherein the step of compressing comprises the steps of:

reading a first parameter that is indicative of a compression type to be applied to the input digital data stream; and

selecting at least one allowable encoder based on the first parameter.

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(Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the compression type is one of lossless data compression, lossy data compression, and a combination thereof.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the input digital data stream comprises a plurality of data blocks and wherein each data block has a first parameter associated therewith indicative of a compression type to be applied to the data block.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of reading a second parameter that is indicative of an amount of information loss that is permissible, if lossy data compression is selected.